





8

THE SCHOOL of GRACE.

Or, A Book of good Nurture,

FOR THE

Admonition and Instruction of Youth and
Age in the fear and admonition of the Lord.
With Godly Instructions, Graces and Pray-
ers, describing the whole duty of a Christian.

By J. HARRIS, B. L. THE THIRD EDITION,

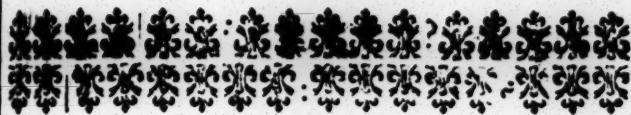
Fear God, Honour the King.



Printed for W. Thackeray; P. Brookby,
J. Williamson, and J. Hise.



Come ye children, hearken unto me, and I will teach you the fear of the Lord, Psa. 34. 11.



Ephef. 6. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.



Children obey your Parents in the Lord,
for this is right.

Honour thy Father and Mother, (which is
the first Commandment with promise.)

That it may be well with thee, and thou
mayest live long on the earth.

And ye Fathers provoke not your children
to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture
and admonition of the Lord.

The Blessed Apostle in
the former Chapter
having laid down se-
veral Christian duties
in the general, comes
here to assert and lay
down the feveral Du-
ties. 1. Of Husbands and Wives. 2. Of
Children and Parents. 3. Of Masters and
Servants.

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These Words contain the particular duties of Children and Parents ; Children obey your Parents ; here is the Children's duty.

Secondly, Here is the manner of performance of this duty, in the Lord, children obey your Parents in the Lord.

In the next place the Apostle here lays down several Reasons and Motives to encourage Christian Children to this Christian duty.

1. It is Gods Commandment so to do, Honour thy Father and thy Mother.

2. It is very beneficial for Children so to do ; for first it shall be well with them if they do so ; And secondly, Their Days shall be long upon the earth.

In the second place, we have here the duty of Parents ; First, negatively, what Parents should not do. And then secondly, Affirmatively what they should do

1. Negatively they should not provoke their Children to wrath.

And 2. Affirmatively. They must bring them up in the Nurture and admonition of the Lord.

From the words thus opened, I gather these two Observations.

1. That

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1. That it is the duty of children to obey their Parents in the Lord.
2. That it is the duty of Parents to educate, instruct, and bring up their children in the fear of the Lord.

Hearken to thy Father that begat thee, saith *Solomon*, and despise not thy Mother when she is old, *Prov.* 23. 22.

Train up a Child in his youth, also saith *Solomon*, in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it, *Prov.* 22. 6.

Now that I may the better inforce this Duty, I shall a little open the particular duties of both. For one main reason why children do so much neglect their duty; is, because Parents are so negligent of their own duties: For if parents did take more care (as their duty is) to bring up their Children in the fear of God, surely children would make more confidence of performing their duties to their Parents. And that children and parents for time to come may the better perform their Duties, I shall lay down sundry Christian and godly Directions suitable to all Persons upon

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all occasions, and so conclude with some few Patterns of Prayers and Graces, for the better benefit and instruction of Children in the fear of God.

The first duty of Parents is, that they give their Children Christian Baptism, and thereby to dedicate them unto the Lord.

Secondly, Give unto your children good examples for children are prone by nature to follow the bad Examples of any, more especially their Parents.

Thirdly, Pray unto God for a blessing unto thy Children, that God would make them his children by enriching their Souls with grace.

Fourthly, Labour to instruct them betimes by some good Catechisms in the principles of Christian Religion, and to instruction wisely add correction; for he that spareth the rod, saith Solomon, hateth his child, but he that loveth him chasteneth him.

Fifthly, Keep a constant awful authority over them, not suffering them to be irreverent; for this end according to ancient and laudable custom, teach them reverently to ask thee blessing on their knees.

Sixthly,

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Sixthly, Labour to suppress all sin and wickedness in thy Children; and to this end, suffer them not to Lie, Swear, Curse, or prophane the Lords day, else will thy children have cause to Curse thee to all Eternity. We find it recorded in Scripture of godly Parents, educating their children in the fear of the Lord: Abraham commanded his Children and Servants, Gen. 18. 16. So likewise Joshua, and holy David, Job, and others. The godly Life of the child discovers the godliness of the Parents, and thus if thou labourest to bring up thy children in the fear of God, that thy Children may be Gods children, how gloriously then have you provided for them! God is their Father, and they that have God for their Father, shall never want; for as the Apostle saith, Godliness is profitable, having the promise of the life that now is, and the life to come: Though thou leavest but a little of this world, yet remember God hath provided a Kingdom for them that serve him.

Lastly, cause thy children frequently to frequent the Ordinances of Christ both publick and private; do not onely pray with them and for them, but cause them to pray
for

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for themselves, and one for another; bring them constantly to hear the publick preaching of the Word of God, and be assured, by the blessing of God, your children may be enriched with grace here and filled with glory hereafter; and in so doing thou must have joy and comfort; God may have glory and honour, and thy children Everlasting life, through Jesus Christ.

Now the duty of Children to their Parents, in the first place, you see, is, obedience; Children obey your Parents in the Lord; and this Obedience of children to their Parents, you see it must be in the Lord, and onely in the Lord; for if Parents command their children to do any thing contrary to the Word of God, then they are not to obey them, they sin in so doing; for remember we must obey God rather then man.

2. Children are to learn good instructions from their Parents: My Son, saith Solomon, hear the Instructions of thy Father, and forsake not the Law of thy Mother, Pro. 1. 1. &c.

3. Children are to honour and reverence their Parents: Honour thy Father and thy Mother (saith the Lord) Honour thy

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thy parents by thy modest, silent, humble, and respectful carriage towards them.

Fourthly, children ought to be thankful to their Parents, endeavouring if need be, to request them for their fatherly love and care towards them; honouring, relieving and supplying them in all their several needs and necessities. And thus much briefly of the Duties of Parents and children.

I come now in the next place to give you some directions and instructions for the better performance of those several Duties. And my first advice to Children is, that they make daily Prayers to God. How precious a thing it is to hear children praying, and how dreadful a thing to hear them swearing and cursing as soon as they can speak. God loves to hear his children praying; our Saviour received little children in his arms, and unto little Children the Kingdom of Heaven belongs: And as a good man saith. I had rather have my house filled with my childrens Prayers, then with Diamonds and Pearls.

Secondly, Take heed of telling Lies: Lye not one to another, saith the Apostle, Let your Communication be yea, yea, and nay

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ay, ay, saith our Saviour. Remember Lyons shall have their part in fire and brimstone, Rev. 22. 15.

Thirdly, delight thy self in reading good Books, read not foolish and wanton books and ballads, which tend onely to the nourishing of vice.

Fourthly, let not thy children scoff and jeer at the antient, be they never so poor: Remember the dreadful judgement of God upon those Wicked Children in 2 Kings 7. 22. who mocked and scoffed at the Prophet; they in derision called the Prophet Baldpate, and God in Judgement for this Wickedness caused two Beares to devour two and forty of them. Love the poor, and plead their cause, remember what GOD saith, Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy.

Fifthly, frequent the Word of God, sleep not at Church, nor at prayer, for Remember whosoever sleeps at Church, or at Prayer, the Devil rocks the Cradle.

Sixthly, let thy apparel be decent and comely; take heed of Pride in thy apparel; Remember Jezabel her Wicked end, how sadly God met with her in her Wallowing, those persons who are so curious in painting

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ing and dyesing themselves, surely the Devil holds them the Looking-glass.

Seventhly, remember the Sabbath-day to keep it Holy ; for surely those children that swear and lye, and break the Sabbath are the devils children ; and they that spend the Sabbath in playing and gaming, have the Devil for their Play-fellow. Take heed then, I say, that you make not the Lords day a day of sports and pastime ; (as the children of the Devil do.) Remember God hath allowed thee six days, do not then be so wicked as to rob him of the Seventh ; for God did not appoint the Sabbath for a day of sporting and pleasure, but for a day of worshipping and serving God, a Day for Preaching and prayer. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Eighthly, See that ye reverence and esteem the Ministers of Gods Holy Word, account of them as they are indeed the Ministers of Christ. Remember what our Saviour saith, He that despiseth you, saith he to his Apostles, despise me ; and he that despiseth you shall be for ever despised of God.

Ninthly, If thou beest a Child of God,
abide

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abound then the company of the **Debile** children, that is, such as **swear**, and **curse**, and **lie**, and **steal**, and use all manner of **filthy** talk. Keep not company with such; lest thou for thy pains **learnest** their vices; and so partake of their punishment; that when others shall answer for their idle words, thou mayst be rewarded.

Tenthly. Love, Honour, and obey your Parents in the Lord. Consider how **GOD** hath commanded you so to do, and **GOD** will severely punish those that despise their Parents; see that dreadful place, **Prov. 30. 17.** The eye that mocketh his Father, and despiseth to obey his Mother, the Ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the younger Eagle shall eat it.

Eleventhly, Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth; labour to serve **GOD** with the strength and best of thy days, live to **GOD** while thou livest, and thou shalt be sure to live with **GOD** when thou diest. Remember **Samuel**, how he was dedicated to **GOD** from his birth, and **Timothy**, how he rejoiced, that of a child he had known the holy Scriptures.

Lastly, walk constantly in the fear of the **LORD** all the day long, in the morning when

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When thou risest, bless God for his merciful preservation of thee the night past, give him thanks for that he hath given thee to see the light of another day, and when thou preparest thy self for thy bed, prepare thy self as for thy grave, remembering that many go to bed and never rise again; and therefore sleep not till thou hast committed thy self by prayer to God; for surely they that go to bed without praying, the Devil is their bedfellow.

Now that thou may'st carefully promise those things, in the first place seek to God by praying, for God loves praying children; be sure to pray unto God both morning and evening, and when thou prayest, say,

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our dayly bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the Power and Glory, for ever and ever. *Amin.*

This is the Prayer which Christ himself

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Self commands us to use, and therefore it is called, The Lords Prayer, the best Pattern for Prayer in the whole World. Therefore it were to be wished that all Parents would be careful to teach their Children the Lords prayer as soon as they can be fit to learn it, and having learned this by heart then let them use some other, and so use both together.

A short Form of Prayer very necessary for Children and Youth, to be used in the Morning.

O Lord our God, thou art the Father of Heaven and the Father of Mercies, by whom alone we live, and move, and have our being: Who tookest us out of our mothers womb, and hath ever since preserved us to this day, blessed be thy name. We bless thee that thou hast safely Defended us this Night past, that thou hast brought us safe to the beginning of another Day. We Pray thee to defend us in the same by thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no Sin, keep us safe from the Temptation of Satan: Deliber us we pray thee from all evil, and grant

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O Lord, that we may live this day and all the rest of our days, as becometh thy children, in Holiness and true Righteousness. Bless our Parents, O Lord, give them grace that they may bring us up in the fear, and instruct us in the ways of thy Commandments; as thou hast made us their Children by Nature, good Lord make us thy Children by grace, that so we may obey our Parents, and serve thee our God all our Days, that so it may be well with us here and hereafter. Bless, O Lord, all the rest of our friends; O Lord let our friends be thy friends. Give us grace to serve thee here with all our strength, and with all our might; that so when this mortal Life shall be ended, we may live and reign with thee for ever in Glory, Amen.

The Lord bless us, and make his face to shine upon us, and the Lord be with us both in our going forth and in our coming in, this day and all our days, for ever and ever, Amen.

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An Evening Prayer for Children.

O most holy, most gracious, and most
Glorious Lord God, we thy pooꝛ chil-
dren do here again prostrate our selves be-
foꝛe thy Majestie this evening, humbly be-
seeching thee foꝛ Iesus Christ his sake to
Pardon and forgive us all our Sins, and to
blot out our Transgressions out of thy re-
membrance; We confesse Lord we are by
Nature children of Wrath, but we pray thee
make us thy children, O Lord, by grace and
adoption: and as we grow in Years, so
Lord we Pray thee let us grow in grace;
Let us not be children in malice and Wicked-
ness, but Children in love and unity; as
thou hast loved us, O Lord, so we pray thee
let us love thee our God, and love one ano-
ther. Bless our Parents in their bodies,
especially bless them in their souls, bless
them in their Baskets and in their store,
instruct them, O Lord, that they may in-
struct us: be with us all this Night in our
down lying. O Lord let us sleep in thy fear
let us lye down in thy love, and rise again
in thy favour; and grant we beseech thee
most Merciful Father, that whether sleep-
ing oꝛ waking, living oꝛ dying, we may be
alwaies thine; watch over us this Night,
and

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and Defend us in the same by thy mighty power, and preserve us from sin, defend us from Satan, continue thy love to us, and be with us and all ours, Bless, Guide, preserve, defend and keep us, both in Soul and in Body, this Night and for evermore : Amen.

And then if thou wouldst be a Child of God, always after Prayer in the Morning let that you read some Lesson or Chapter out of the Bible, and be always reading of good Books; as the Practice of Piety, the plain Mans plain path-way to Heaven. Mr. *Baxters* Call to the Unconverted, the great Affize, and the Silver Watch-bell, and others; and be sure thou never lookest upon any idle foolish jesting Book, which tend onely to the nourishment of vice and spending of precious time, but delight thy self in reading the holy Bible, and other godly books; that so the Lord may bless thee here, and thou mayest be blessed hereafter, for godliness hath not onely the promise of this Life, but of the life to come; that thou mayest give account at the great and Terrible Day of Judgement, as well for every idle Hour thou spendest; as for every idle Word thou speakest, when thou

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art disposed to be merry, laying aside
ungodly Songs and Ballads, which tend
only to the nourishment of vice and wickedness,
and the corruption of youth; if
any be merry, saith the Apostle, let him
sing Psalms; the Apostle doth not say, if any
be merry let him sing merry Songs, and
merry Ballads; but if any be merry let him
sing Psalms, and be sure always that you
sing with grace in your heart, making melody
to the Lord.

Psalm CXIII.

Blessed art thou that fearest God,
and walkest in his way;
For of thy labour thou shalt eat,
happy art thou I say.
Like fruitful Vines on thy house side,
so doth thy Wife spring out;
Thy Children stand like Olive plants,
thy table round about.
Thus art thou blest that fearest God,
and he shall let thee see,
The promised Jerusalem,
and her felicity.
Thou shalt thy Childrens Children see,
to thy great joys encrease;
And likewise grace to Israel,
prosperity and peace.

Then

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Then in the next place be sure to get and learn some good Catechism, that so thou mayest be instructed in the principles of Religion; as that excellent Catechism of Mr. Perkins, called the Six Principles of Religion, Mr. Balls Catechism, &c.

A short but necessary Catechism for Children.

Q. **V V** Who made you?

A. God.

Q. For what did God make you?

A. God made me that I might serve him, and for his glory.

Q. Who redeemed you?

A. Jesus Christ.

Q. From what did Christ Jesus Redeem you.

A. Jesus Christ redeemed me by his blood from sin and hell.

Q. Who sanctified and preserved you?

A. God the Holy Ghost.

Q. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit.

W 3

Q. How

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Q. How many Gods are there?

A. One onely and true God, diuided into three Persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

Q. In what state did God make man at first?

A. God made Man at first after his own Image, in Righteousness and true Holiness.

Q. Did man continue in this state?

A. No.

Q. How did he fall?

A. By disobeying the Commandement of God in eating the forbidden fruit.

Q. What followed thereupon?

A. Whereupon followed Sin, Death, and Hell.

Q. Did God leave Man in this fallen estate?

A. No, God provided for fallen Man, a Saviour and Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ the Righteous.

Q. How many Commandements are there?

A. Ten.

Q. Which be they? let me hear you rehearse them.

Thou

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I.

Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.

II.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven Image, or any likeness of any thing that is in Heaven above, or that is in the

B 4

Earth

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Earth beneath, or that is in the Water under the Earth; Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a Jealous God visiting the Iniquity of the Fathers upon the Children unto the third and fourth Generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my Commandments.

III.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain.

IV.

Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy, Six days shalt thou Labour, and do all thy Work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy Daughter, thy Man-servant, nor thy Maid-servant, nor thy Cattel, nor the stranger that is within thy gates; For in six days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath-day and hallowed it.

V. Honour

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V.

Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy days may be long in the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI.

Thou shalt not kill.

VII.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII.

Thou shalt not steal.

IX.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy Neighbour.

X.

Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbours House, thou shalt not covet thy neighbours Wife, nor his Man-servant, nor his Maid-servant, nor his Ox nor his Ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbours.

Q. What dost thou chiefly learn by the Commandements?

A. I learn by the Commandements, that it is my duty to serve God according to his word, and love my Neighbour as my self.

Q. Art

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Q. Art thou able to keep the Commandements?

A. No.

Q. How then shalt thou expect to be saved?

A. Onely by faith in Jesus Christ.

Q. What is faith?

A. Faith is the gift of God, whereby we lay hold on Jesus Christ for eternal Salvation. Rehearse the Articles of the Christian Faith.

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth : and in Jesus Christ his onely Son our Lord, which was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin *Mary*, suffered under *Pontius Pilate* : was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again : he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge both the quick and the dead, I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholique Church; the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Certain

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Certain Graces fit to be learned of every Child that desires to be a Child of God.

Grace before Meat.

VVether ye eat or Drink, saith St. Paul, do all to the Glorv of God, Amen.

Blessed Lord, in whom we live, move, and have our being, we most humbly beseech thee to bless these thy Creatures to the use of our Bodies, sanctifie them to us, and sanctifie us to thy self, forgive us our Sins, and make us Partakers of thy Heavenly Table, Amen.

God save his Church, our King, Queen, and Realm, and send us peace and truth in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

Grace after Meat.

Christ which at his last Supper gave himself unto us, promise us his Body to be crucified, and his Blood to be shed for our Sins, bless us and our Meat. Amen.

Grace

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Grace before Meat.

O Father of mercy and God of all consolation, which hast created us for thy glory, and these thy good creatures for our use; bless and sanctifie them we beseech thee, that by the moderate receiving thereof, our bodies may be nourished, and thy name evermore be Praised through Jesus Christ our onely Lord and blessed Saviour, Amen.

Grace before Meat.

O Merciful Lord Jesus Christ, which didst take the five Loaves and Two Fishes, and lifting up thine eyes unto heaven didst distribute them unto the People, and they all did eat and were satisfied, being above five thousand Men, besides Women and Childzen; we beseech thee both to Bless these Gifts which we are about to receive at thy hands, and us also, that they may be to the comfort and health of our bodies, and we may (for them and other thy Benefits) be evermore thankful unto thee. To whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory for ever, Amen.

Grace

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Grace after Meat.

O Lord God, Almighty and most dear Father, thou hast not onely given unto us Meate and Drink to sustain our Mortal Bodies, but thou hast likewise given unto us thy Blessed Word which is the only food of our immortal Souls through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom therefore with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all Honour, Praise and thanks, for ever and ever, Amen.

Grace after Meat.

O Lord, which art the Creator of all creatures, and hast prepared food for them, according to the nature of their creation, we most heartily thank thee for these thy creatures, which at this time we have received in thy name; beseeching thee, O Father, that as our bodies are now by these gifts refreshed, our souls may be also nourished with the food of Everlasting Life in the most Holy Testament, confirmed with the Blood and Death of Jesus Christ thy Son our Saviour; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all Honour, Glory and Praise, for ever and ever, Amen.

Grace

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Grace after Meat.

Blessed be thy Name, O Lord God, for
all thy Mercies and labours bestowed
upon us, that thou hast at this time fed our
Bodies with thy good creatures, we pray
thee likewise to feed our Souls with the
Heavenly Food of thy Word, that we Re-
ceiuing at thy Merciful hands Food both
for our Bodies and Souls, may liue and
grow in all godliness through Jesus Christ
our onely Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Another after Meat.

The King of Eternal Glorie, who hast
at this time fed our Bodies, make us
partakers of thy Heavenly Table, Amen.

Grace after Meat.

Whatsoeuer you do in Word or deed
do all in the name of our Lord Je-
sus Christ; giue thanks unto God the Fa-
ther by him; to whom all Blessing, Glorie,
Wisdom, thanks, honour, power & might,
be rendred for euermore, Amen.

Certain



Certain Questions and
their Answers, necessary
for Parents to Ask and
Teach their Children for
their Instruction in the
Holy Scriptures.

Q. Who was the first Man?

A. Adam.

Q. Who was the first Woman?

A. Eve.

Q. Of what did God make Man?

A. God made Man out of the dust of
the earth.

Q. Of what did God make the Wo-
man,

A. Of one of the Ribs of Adam.

Q. Where did Adam and Eve dwell?

A. In Paradise.

Q. What

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Q. What cast *Adam* out of Paradise?

A. Sin.

Q. Who was the best man?

A. The *San Christ Jesus*.

Q. Who slew his Brother?

A. *Cain*.

Q. Who was the first Martyr?

A. *Abel*.

Q. Who was the oldest man?

A. *Methuselah*.

Q. Who was the man whom God saved when he drowned the world?

A. *Noah*.

Q. Who wrestled with God?

A. *Jacob*.

Q. What was his Name called after he had wrestled with God?

A. *Israel*.

Q. How many children had *Jacob*?

A. Twelve, of whom came the twelve Tribes of *Israel*?

Q. What were their Names.

A. *Ruben*, and *Simeon*, and *Levi*, and *Judah*, and *Issachar*, and *Zebulun*, and *Joseph*, and *Benjamin*, *Dan* and *Naphtali*, *Gad* and *Asher*. These are the Twelve Patriarchs.

Q. Who

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Q. Who was the faithfulest man that ever lived?

A. Abraham; who is called the Father of the faithful.

Q. Who was the meekest man?

A. Moses.

Q. Who was the hard-heartedest man?

A. Pharaoh.

Q. Who was the patientest Man?

A. Job.

Q. Who was the man after Gods own heart?

A. David.

Q. Who was the wisest man?

A. Solomon.

Q. Who was the strongest man?

A. Sampson.

Q. Who wrote the Scriptures?

A. Holy Men of God inspired by the Holy Ghost.

Q. VVho was it that came before Jesus Christ?

A. John the Baptist.

Q. VVho was the first Martyr after Christ?

A. Stephen.

Q. What death did he dye?

A. He was stoned.

Q. VVhere

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Q. Where was Christ born?

A. In Bethlem.

Q. Who was the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?

A. The Virgin Mary.

Q. Who was the reputed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

A. Joseph the Carpenter.

Q. Who betrayed his Lord and Master?

A. Judas.

Q. What did he betray him for?

A. For the love of money, which is the root of all evil.

Q. For how much money did Judas sell his Master?

A. For thirty pieces of silver.

Q. What became of Judas after he had betrayed Christ?

A. He went and hanged himself.

Q. Who denied Christ?

A. Peter.

Q. What became of Peter after he had denied Christ?

A. He went out and wept bitterly.

Q. Who condemned Christ?

A. Pontius Pilate.

Q. Who crucified Jesus Christ?

A. The bloody Jews.

Q. O

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Q. Out of whom did Christ cast seven Devils?

A. Mary Magdalen.

Q. Which was the beloved Disciple of Christ?

A. John.

Q. Who forsook Christ for the love of the world?

A. Demas.

Q. Who are the best Children?

A. They that fear God and keep his Commandments, and Obey their Parents.

Q. Who are the worst Children?

A. They that lye and swear, Reel, and break the Sabbath, and Despise God, and break his Holy and Righteous Commandments.

Q. What become of Gods children when they dye?

A. They go to Heaven.

Q. What becomes of the Wicked when they dye?

A. They are cast into Hell, there to be tormented with the Devil and his Angels.

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Application.

And so I now come in the last place to wind up all in a word of Application both to Parents and Children.

And so in the first place, if it be the duty of Parents to instruct their children in the fear of God; then you may observe from hence the great wickedness of such wicked Parents, who instead of instructing their children in the fear of God, bring them up in all manner of Sin and Wickedness: How many such wicked Parents are there in the World, who forbid their children to hear Sermons, and to read Good Books; but on the contrary teach their children to despise holiness, and encourage them in all manner of wickedness. Oh Wretched Sinner, hadst thou rather have thy child the devils child then Gods child: will you neither be holy your selves, nor suffer your Children to be holy: will it not one day be miserable enough think you to damn your own Soul, but must you also drive your Children to hell before you: the Lord awaken all such Parents. Is it not enough that you have made your children the children of wrath

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(as all men, women and children are by nature, for as holy David said, so may we all, We were conceived in sin, and in iniquity were we brought forth) but will ye also hinder them from being made children of grace, are not your children prone enough to sin of themselves, but must you also help on their damnation, are there not Devils enough to tempt them to sin, but must you also prove Devils incarnate to them your selves, are not your children always near enough, even at the brink of Hell, and will ye also seek to turne them into the lake of fire, do you think the way to Heaven is to despise preaching and to mock at holiness, ought not you to be nursing fathers and nursing mothers to your children, and will you nurse them up for the Devil, Let wicked parents consider and tremble.

Secondly, There is also a use of comfort for all Gods children, they that fear God and spend their time in reading and praying, they shall for ever be singing praises and hallelujahs to God in heaven, where thou shalt be with God and Christ Saints and Angels to all eternity; when those wicked children who delight in nothing

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but swearing and lying, who Despise holiness, and would not walk in the ways of God, shall be sent to hell with a G. ye, cursed into Everlasting Fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels. Ah poe? Creatures! they delighted in cursing, and now they are Cursed; they despised Holiness, but now they are despised themselves; this shall be the portion of all the wicked, they shall be tumbled into hell; when Gods children shall be received into Heaven: I beseech you then, as you love your own Precious souls, if you would escape this Hell, if you would enjoy this Heaven, then for the Lords sake Children be holy, Pray Morning and evening, obey your Parents, love God, serve him with all your souls; if ye do thus, and ke thus, then blessed shall ye be; for Christ shall say unto you, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World: Unto which Kingdom the Lord bring us all, Amen.

Now for the furtherance of Holiness, I have here thought fit to insert a very good Morning and Evening Prayer, to be used in Families.

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A Morning Prayer for a Family.

A Almighty God, most merciful Father we do not present our selves here before thy Majesty, trusting in our own merits or Worthiness, but in thy manifold mercies, which hast promised to hear our Prayers, and grant our requests which we shall make to thee in the name of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord : who hath also commanded us to assemble our selves together in his Name, with full assurance that he will not only be our Advocate, but also be our Mediator and Advocate towards thy Majesty, that he may obtain all things which shall seem expedient to thy blessed will for our necessities : Therefore we beseech thee most merciful Father, to turn thy loving countenance towards us, and impute not to us our manifold sins and offences, whereby we justly deserve thy wrath and sharp punishment : but rather receive us to thy mercy for Jesus Christs sake, accepting his death and passion as a just recompence for all our offences, in whom onely thou art pleased, and through whom thou canst not be offended with us. And seeing of thy great mercies, we have

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quietly passed this night, grant, O heavenly Father, that we may bestow this day wholly in thy service, so that our thoughts, words and deeds may rebound to the glory of thy name, and good ensample of all men, who seeing our good Works may Glorifie thee our Heavenly Father. And forasmuch as of thy meer labour and love, thou hast not onely created us in thine own similitude and likeness, but also hast chosen us to be heirs with thy dear Son Iesus Christ, of that immortal Kingdom which thou preparedst for us before the beginning of the World; we beseech thee to increase our faith and knowledge, and to enlighten our hearts with thy Holy Spirit: that we may in the mean time Live in godly conuersation and integrity of Life, knowing that Idolaters, Adulterers, covetous men, contentious persons, Drunkards, Gluttons, and such like, shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. And because thou hast Comanded us to pray one for another, we do not onely make request (O Lord) for our selves, and for them that thou hast already called to the true understanding of thy Heavenly will, but for all people and Nations of the World who as they know by thy wonderful works thou

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thou art God over all : So they may be instructed by thy holy Spirit, to beleve in thee their onely Saviour and Redeemer : But say as much as they cannot beleve except they hear, nor cannot hear but by preaching, and none can preach except they be sent, therefore (O Lord) raise up faithful distributors of thy Mysteries, who setting apart all worldly respects may both in their life and Doctrine only seek thy glory. Contrarily confound Satan, Antichrist, with all hirelings, whom thou hast already cast off into a reprobate sense, that they may not by Sects, Schismis, Heresies and Errors disquiet thy little flock. O Lord, thy people Israel, many times by their Sinnes provoked thine anger, and thou punishedst them by thy just Judgement, yet though their Sinnes were never so grievous, if they once returned from their iniquity, thou bestowedst them to mercy. We therefore most wretched Sinners bewail our manifold Sinnes, and earnestly repent us of our former wickedness and ungodly behaviour towards thee : and whereas we cannot of our selves purchase us our pardon, yet we humbly beseech thee for Iesus Christ sake to shew thy mercy upon us, and receive us

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us again to thy labour. Grant us, O Father, these our requests, and all other things which are necessary for us, and the whole Church, according to thy promise in Jesus Christ our Lord. In whose name we beseech thee, as he hath taught us saying; Our Father, &c.

An Evening Prayer for a Family.

O Lord God, Father everlasting and full of pittie, we acknowledge and confesse that we be not worthy to lift up our eyes to Heauen, much less to present our selves before thy Majesty, with confidence that thou wilt hear our Prayers, and grant our requests, if we consider our own deservings: for our consciences do accuse us, and our sins witness against us, and we know that thou art an upright Judge; which dost not iustifie the sinners and wicked men, but punishest the faults of all such as transgress thy Commandements. O most merciful Father, since it hath pleased thee to command us to call on thee in all our troubles and aduersities, promising even then to help us, when we feel our selves (as it were) swallowed up of death and desperation, we utterly renounce all worldly

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would confidence, and flee to thy Sober-
aign Lou thy, as our only stay and refuge :
beseeching thee not to call to remembrance
our manifold sins and wickedness, whereby
we continually provoke thy wrath and in-
dignation against us, neither our negli-
gence and unkindness, which have neither
worthily esteemed, nor in our lives suffi-
ciently expressed the sweet comfort of thy
Gospel revealed unto us : but rather to
accept the obedience, and death of thy Son
Jesus Christ, who by offering up his body
in sacrifice once for all, hath made a suffi-
cient recompence for all our sins. Have
mercy therefore upon us (O Lord) and for-
give us our offences ; teach us by thy holy
Spirit, that we may rightly weigh them,
and earnestly repent for the same : And
so much the rather, O Lord, because that
the reprobate, and such as thou hast for-
saken, cannot praise thee, nor call upon
thy name, but the repenting heart, the
sorrowful mind, the Conscience oppressed,
hungering and thirsting for thy grace, shall
ever set forth thy praise and glory. And al-
beit we are but worms & dust, yet thou art
our Creator, and we be the works of thy
hands ; yea, thou art our father and we thy
chil-

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children, thou art our Shepherd, and we thy flock, thou art our Redeemer, and we the people whom thou hast bought; thou art our God and we thine inheritance. Correct us not therefore in thine anger, O Lord, neither according to our deserts punish us, but mercifully chastise us with a fatherly affection. Finally, soasmuch as it hath pleased thee to make the night for man to rest in, as thou hast ordained him the day to travel in, grant (O dear father) that we may so take our bodily rest that our souls may continually watch, for the time that our Lord Jesus Christ shall appear for our deliverance out of this mortal life, and in the mean season that we are not overcome by any fantasies, dreams, or other temptations, may fully set our minds upon thee, love thee, fear thee, and rest in thee; furthermore that our sleep be not excessive or overmuch after the insatiable desires of our flesh, but onely sufficient to content our weak natures, that we may be better disposed to live in all godly conversation, to the glory of thy holy name, and profit of our brethren, Amen.

F I N I S.

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